



## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[EPA-HQ-OAR-2020-0312; FRL-7887-03-OAR]

### Release of Volume 3 of the Integrated Review Plan in the Review of the Lead National Ambient Air Quality Standards

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** On or about May 12, 2023, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is making available to the public, Volume 3 of the *Integrated Review Plan for the Lead National Ambient Air Quality Standards* (IRP). The national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for lead (Pb) are set to protect the public health and the public welfare from Pb in ambient air. Volume 3 of the IRP is the planning document for quantitative analyses to be considered in the policy assessment (PA), including exposure and risk analyses.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before [INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

**ADDRESSES:** You may send comments on Volume 3 of the IRP, identified by Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2020-0312, by any of the following methods:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: <https://www.regulations.gov/> (our preferred method). Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
- Mail: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA Docket Center, Office of Air and Radiation Docket, Mail Code 28221T, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20460.
- Hand Delivery or Courier (by scheduled appointment only): EPA Docket Center, WJC West Building, Room 3334, 1301 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20004. The Docket Center's hours of operations are 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday (except Federal Holidays).

*Instructions:* All submissions received must include the Docket ID No. for this notice.

Comments received may be posted without change to <https://www.regulations.gov/>, including

any personal information provided. For detailed instructions on sending comments, see the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this document. The draft document described here will be available on the EPA's website at <https://www.epa.gov/naaqs/lead-pb-air-quality-standards>. The documents will be accessible under "Policy Assessments" for the current review.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Deirdre L. Murphy, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Mail Code: C504-06, 109 T.W. Alexander Drive, P.O. Box 12055, NC 27711; telephone number: 919-541-0729; or email: [murphy.deirdre@epa.gov](mailto:murphy.deirdre@epa.gov).

## **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

### **I. General Information**

#### *Written Comments*

Submit your comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2020-0312, at <https://www.regulations.gov> (our preferred method), or the other methods identified in the **ADDRESSES** section. Once submitted, comments cannot be edited or removed from the docket. The EPA may publish any comment received to its public docket. Do not submit to EPA's docket at <https://www.regulations.gov> any information you consider to be Confidential Business Information (CBI), Proprietary Business Information (PBI), or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Multimedia submissions (audio, video, etc.) must be accompanied by a written comment. The written comment is considered the official comment and should include discussion of all points you wish to make. The EPA will generally not consider comments or comment contents located outside of the primary submission (i.e., on the web, cloud, or other file sharing system). Please visit <https://www.epa.gov/dockets/commenting-epa-dockets> for additional submission methods; the full EPA public comment policy; information about CBI, PBI, or multimedia submissions; and general guidance on making effective comments.

## II. Information About the Documents

Two sections of the Clean Air Act (CAA or the Act) govern the establishment and revision of the NAAQS. Section 108 directs the Administrator to identify and list certain air pollutants and then issue “air quality criteria” for those pollutants. The air quality criteria are to “accurately reflect the latest scientific knowledge useful in indicating the kind and extent of all identifiable effects on public health or welfare which may be expected from the presence of such pollutant in the ambient air. . .” (CAA section 108(a)(2)). Under section 109 of the Act, the EPA is then to establish primary (health-based) and secondary (welfare-based) NAAQS for each pollutant for which the EPA has issued air quality criteria. Section 109(d)(1) of the Act requires periodic review and, if appropriate, revision of existing air quality criteria. Revised air quality criteria are to reflect advances in scientific knowledge on the effects of the pollutant on public health and welfare. Under the same provision, the EPA is also to periodically review and, if appropriate, revise the NAAQS, based on the revised air quality criteria.

The Act additionally requires appointment of an independent scientific review committee that is to periodically review the existing air quality criteria and NAAQS and to recommend any new standards and revisions of existing criteria and standards as may be appropriate (CAA section 109(d)(2)(A)-(B)). Since the early 1980s, the requirement for an independent scientific review committee has been fulfilled by the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC).

Presently the EPA is reviewing the air quality criteria and NAAQS for Pb.<sup>1</sup> The documents announced in this notice have been developed as part of the integrated review plan (IRP) which is developed in the planning phase for the review. The document has been prepared by the EPA’s Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, within the Office of Air and Radiation. This document will be available on the EPA’s website at <https://www.epa.gov/naaqs/lead-pb-air-quality-standards>, accessible under “Planning Documents” for the current review.

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<sup>1</sup> The EPA’s call for information for this review was issued on July 7, 2020 (85 FR 40641).

The IRP for the current review of the lead NAAQS is comprised of three volumes. Volume 3 is the subject of this notice. This volume is the planning document for quantitative analyses to be considered in the policy assessment (PA), including exposure and risk analyses. Comments are solicited from the public on Volume 3, which will also be the subject of a consultation with the CASAC. The consultation was announced in a separate *Federal Register* notice (88 FR 17218, March 22, 2023).

Volumes 1 and 2 were released in March 2022. Volume 1 provides background information on the air quality criteria and standards for Pb and may serve as a reference by the public and the CASAC in their consideration of volumes 2 and 3. Volume 2 addresses the general approach for the review and planning for the integrated science assessment (ISA) and was the subject of a consultation with the CASAC in April 2022.

Comments on Volume 3 of the IRP should be submitted to the docket, as described above, by **[INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**. A separate *Federal Register* notice provided details about the CASAC consultation meeting and the process for participation in the CASAC consultation on Volume 3 (88 FR 17218, March 22, 2023). The EPA will consider the consultation comments from the CASAC and public comments on the IRP, Volume 3, in preparation of any quantitative exposure and risk analyses for the PA. Volume 1 of the IRP, already available on the EPA website, provides background or contextual and historical material for this NAAQS review. These documents do not represent and should not be construed to represent any final EPA policy, viewpoint, or determination.

**Erika Sasser,**

*Director, Health and Environmental Impacts Division.*

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